

# For freeway drivers, 2008 is the big year

## New stretches, extra lanes becoming reality

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This is the year you will finally get there from here.

State road builders will connect the dotted lines on the last five miles of a freeway system under construction for more than 20 years, linking segments of Loop 202's Red Mountain Freeway in the East Valley.

The project is one of several major road improvements the Arizona Department of Transportation will undertake this year.

The final stretch of Loop 202 will cost \$195 million to build and is expected to be completed in the fall.

"That's going to be a big milestone, completing that," said Doug Nintzel, ADOT spokesman.

Commuters will have to navigate around other big road projects, as well, including the widening of Interstate 10 in the West Valley, Interstate 17 in north Phoenix and the Red Mountain.

New carpool lanes also are coming to Loop 101 in north Scottsdale and Tempe.

"This is going to be a significant year with the kickoff of major expansion projects," Nintzel said. "They've been anticipated for quite some time. It's great to be able to actually break ground and get going."